THE HON'BLE Ms. JUSTICE G. ROHINI

WRIT PETITION NO.23627 OF 2006

DATED: 20-12-2006

Between :

Tabassum Fathima ... Petitioner

And

The Passport Officer, Regional Passport Office,
Hyderabad, Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India, Kummarguda,
Secunderabad. .. Respondent

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ORDER :

Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner.

Despite service, respondent did not choose to appear.

The petitioner was issued a passport bearing No.5600599 dated 12.7.2001 valid upto 11-7-2011. It is stated that whereas the petitioner's date of birth is 31-10-1969, the same was wrongly mentioned as 07.08.1966 in the Passport. Similarly, the place of birth was also wrongly mentioned as Warangal, whereas the petitioner was born at Hyderabad. In the circumstances, the petitioner sought for correction of the entries in the passport enclosing the Birth Certificate issued by the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad along with an affidavit explaining the true facts. The respondent refused to correct the entries of place and date of birth and insisted on producing a declaratory order from the Court. Hence, this writ petition.

It is to be noted that the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, issued circular dated 18.04.2001, which reads as under:

(a) Where an applicant is seeking rectification/Correction of a mistake in the entry of date of birth/place of birth in the passport, PIA (Passport Issuing Authority) may after verifying/satisfying himself, after the correction treating the same as a technical correction. There is no need for a declaratory order in such cases.

(b) Where a competent authority issuing a birth certificate or an educational board registering a date of birth along with place of birth as valid were to issue any correction or amendment, PIA may effect the necessary amendment in the passport without insisting on a Court Order. As per the provisions of Section 21 of the General clauses Act, 1997, a competent authority issuing a certificate could also make necessary amendments to the same.

(c) Where the initial entry has been made on the basis of a

> supportive document issued by one competent authority and the applicant subsequently requests for a change on the basis of a certificate issued by another competent authority i.e., municipal authorities resulting in conflicting sources of valid proof, the PIA should direct the applicant to obtain a civil order from a competent Court of jurisdiction, certifying the valid date of birth/place of birth."

Having considered the above circular, this Court in **Ali Imran v. Regional Passport Officer, Secunderabad** [1] held that as per the circular dated 18.04.2001, it is permissible to accept the applications for rectification/correction of the entries in the passport.

The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the correction of place and date of birth of the petitioner in the passport was only a technical correction, and therefore, it falls under clause (a) of the circular. In support of his submission the learned counsel relied upon the decision in **Asra Begum v. Regional Passport Officer, Secunderabad** [2].

Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case and following the decision of this Court in **Ali Imran's case** (1 supra), the writ petition is disposed of granting liberty to the petitioner to make a fresh application along with all the supporting documents to substantiate her plea, within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order, and if any such application is made, the respondents are directed to receive and consider the same in accordance with the Circular dated 18.04.2001 and pass appropriate orders in accordance with law and communicate the same to the petitioner within a period of four weeks thereafter.

The writ petition is accordingly, disposed of. No costs.

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G. ROHINI, J.

Dt. 20-12-2006

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[1] 2003(3) ALD 625;

[2] 2004(6) ALD 360.